

# **EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance**

## ***Saginaw, MI***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### **BACKGROUND**

EPA awarded the City of Saginaw supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Saginaw (population 69,512) is located approximately 100 miles north of Detroit. The city is situated at the north end of Michigan's industrial corridor and near the gateway to the state's recreational areas. Principle employment is automotive manufacturing, medicine, education, and agriculture. In the past, lumber, oil, and coal industries have been large employers for the region. Saginaw's 31.7 percent poverty level is among the highest in the nation, and the unemployment rate is 9.75 percent.

The city has hundreds of idle and abandoned former industrial and manufacturing sites. During the last 30 years, more than 800 abandoned properties in the central business district have reverted to city or state ownership. Uncertainty about the existence of environmental contamination has hindered redevelopment. The original Pilot targeted city-, state- and privately owned commercial and industrial properties located within or adjacent to the state-designated Renaissance Zone and on the city's riverfront. The supplemental assistance will expand

### **PILOT SNAPSHOT**



*Saginaw, Michigan*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 2000

**Amount:** \$150,000  
**Greenspace:** \$50,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets approximately 12 brownfields located within the boundaries of Saginaw's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and a 28-acre abandoned marsh area in the central city for greenspace activities.

### **Contacts:**

City of Saginaw  
(517) 759-1550

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 886-1960

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

to target several priority brownfields located anywhere within the city, including properties within the Renaissance Zone, adjacent to the Zone, along the riverfront, or within the boundaries of the city's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

## OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Saginaw's primary objective is to increase redevelopment and create jobs in the target areas by encouraging private and public investment. The goal of the supplemental assistance is to use the brownfields systems and infrastructure in place as a result of the initial Pilot efforts to maximize cleanup and redevelopment opportunities within the boundaries of the city's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. In conjunction with the city's riverfront development plans and in partnership with the Saginaw public school system and several non-profit entities, the city is developing a plan to use greenspace funding to create urban wetlands within the central city in a 28-acre abandoned marsh area. The additional funding for assessment will help facilitate restoration of this habitat.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Select priority brownfields among those inventoried within the city limits;
- Conduct approximately 12 Phase I environmental assessments;
- Conduct approximately 10 Phase II environmental assessments;
- Conduct approximately eight Baseline Environmental Assessments (BEAs) to State of Michigan specifications, providing liability protection to new owners and operators;
- Perform Phase I and II assessments and BEAs to facilitate restoration of the wetland area; and
- Continue to give outreach presentations, solicit input, and focus on community involvement in cleanup and redevelopment issues at the targeted properties.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*